

Miami Dade County Children's Courthouse

Project Budget: \$1.2 million

Project Description

The purpose of the Children's Courthouse is to provide justice for the children of Miami Dade County. The facility will serve the community, families and children of the County. The Children's Courthouse will house Juvenile Delinquency, Dependency and Family Courts.

Opportunities for Public Art

The Children's Courthouse offers diverse opportunities and multiple areas for creating public art. Due to the unique nature of this project and the high visibility of the facility, several artists will likely be selected for multiple projects. In addition, the facility offers the possibility for an artist to collaborate with children who reside in Miami Dade County to design a public artwork for the courthouse. Opportunities for art include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.) Exterior Wall (Confetti Wall):** The "Confetti Wall" will be located on the southern facade of the courthouse and will house the upstairs public galleries (waiting area). The wall will contain over 500 square windows interspersed with larger bay windows at seemingly random spacing. Due to the spacing of these windows, it will become challenging for the viewer to determine the floor lines form the exterior of the building, and the result deliberately gives few outside clues to scale. This will allow for the children to respond to architectural elements that are sized for them. The architectural renderings of the building show the small windows set with brightly colored glass, representing the six primary colors of the rainbow.
- 2.) Oculus Window:** The second floor landing of the escalators will feature a large round oculus. In the winter months, the low mid-day sun would project a gleaming circle of light on the second floor landing. Due to the open plan of the building, this oculus and its reflection could also be viewed from the third floor. The window provides a rich opportunity for an artist to create imagery or text relating to the justice center and/or the children who will visit the courthouse.
- 3.) Courtroom Friezes:** Traditionally, courtrooms have a monotonous similarity and are often identical throughout each building. The Children's Courthouse would like to give each courtroom its own character by adding artistic elements such as colored friezes. This would be a wonderful opportunity for a professional artist to work with the young artists/students of Miami Dade County and incorporate their ideas and artworks into a permanent piece suited for the courtrooms.
- 4.) Terrazzo Floors:** The flooring of all public circulation areas will be of terrazzo. Artistic enhancements to the terrazzo floors could denote direction of travel or announce important entrances and signal the main axes to areas such as a courtroom or an elevator lobby.

